

Meeting 6/29/05 SRC Subcommittee on Laser Safety

Present: Joel Ager (MSD), Ted de Castro (EHS), Gary Zeman (EHS), Marc Hertlein (CSD), Richard Kadel (PHNSD), Larry McLouth (EHS), Robert Schoenlein (MSD), Ed Ciprazo (UCB), Neil Landau (DOE/BSO), Bob Mueller (SRC Electrical Safety Subcommittee Chair).

Agenda:

- (1) Discussion of NFPA 70E section 330 requirements and possible exemption in favor of ANSI Z136.1 requirements (Gary)
- (2) Report on LBNL response to DOE request for verification of laser safety expectations (Gary, Ted, Neil)
- (3) Progress report on laser lab visits and documentation of laser enclosures (Ted)
- (4) Status and assessment of undocumented (inactive?) laser AHDs (Ted)
- (5) Laser inventory database update (Gary)

Minutes:

(1) The DOE/LBNL Work Smart Standards include the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Standards which provide some guidance on laser safety. However, since the NFPA Standards (relating to lasers) are not comprehensive, and are not entirely consistent with the ANSI Standard, the Laser Safety Subcommittee recommends that the lab follow the ANSI Standard, which is the most comprehensive laser safety standard. Gary Zeman will arrange for the necessary changes to the Work Smart Standards, in negotiations with DOE. The Chair of the SRC Subcommittee on Electrical Safety (Bob Mueller) formally deferred to the Subcommittee on Laser Safety on this issue.

(2) LBNL responded to the DOE Special Operations Report on Laser Safety. The LBNL response indicated those requirements with which the lab is already in compliance, and those requirements that the lab is in the process of fulfilling. DOE/BSO has evaluated this response and developed a Corrective Action Plan to be completed by Oct 31, 2005. There is general agreement between LBNL-EH&S and DOE/BSO, except in one area as outlined below:

DOE Expectation #17 "LSOs periodically observe new users, students, and visiting scientists to ensure that controls are in place and that PPE is worn". There is an unresolved question of interpretation of the terms "periodic" and "new" as well as an issue of line management vs. LSO observation of new users.

Laser Safety experts from ORNL will be visiting LBNL (July 11-13) to provide support to DOE/BSO. Any remaining issues with the SOR on Laser Safety will be resolved at that time.

(3) Laser laboratory visits (and hands-on training) by the LSO are ~60-70% complete. The deadline for laser safety supervisors to schedule these visits is July 31. Any laboratories or individuals who have not met this requirement by that time will be issued a notice to "stop laser work" via the LCATS system and directly by EH&S. There was considerable discussion

regarding the most effective way to incorporate regular LSO visits to the laser labs (including a hands-on discussion/demonstration of laser alignment techniques). Bob Schoenlein will draft a proposal and circulate it via email with the goal of reaching some consensus so that this issue can be decided at the next meeting.

Ted de Castro presented a number of photos illustrating laser enclosure techniques in labs that he has visited. The committee commends him on this effort and encourages him to disseminate this information to laser users who need help devising schemes for enclosing their systems.

(4) There is some discrepancy between the manual count of laser AHDs and the electronic database being compiled by Larry McLouth. This is being resolved during the course of the laser lab visits. There are no unresolved laser AHDs on the list of labs to be visited.

(5) Laser inventory database will be linked to the electronic AHD database. Users acting as “beta testers” have provided some feedback regarding the inventory database. The goal is to have these systems in operation in the fall of 2005.